

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 25, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2012 special meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan, who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Paterson, who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Neighborhood Assistance Act Program

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter continued the public hearing from June 11, 2012 with an overview of the proposed projects to be submitted to the Department of Revenue Services for consideration. Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente spoke on the benefits of water harvesting at the Mansfield Community Center as one of the proposed projects.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, spoke against the entire program and urges the Council to reject this project. She feels funds would be better spent on educating students.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

April Holinko, Mansfield Depot, encourages the Council to take seriously any requests or recommendations received from the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the School Building Project.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, spoke on a discrepancy that appeared in the Willimantic Chronicle as to the authority of local zoning boards with regard to jurisdiction over building construction particularly at the University of Connecticut's proposed Tech Park. (Submitted documents to be included in the July 9, 2012 packet)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, would like to see the Community Center unified allowing all residents accessibility. He also voiced his concerns that the town should keep the taxpayers in mind when negotiating wage increases for personnel.

Roger Roberge, Woodland Road, expressed his willingness to act as a consultant for the town when negotiating wage increases.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agrees with the previous speaker and feels an outside negotiator should be consulted on potential wage increases for town personnel. She would also like issues addressed and the subjectivity removed from the transfer station.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager presented his written report. In addition, Mr. Hart spoke on the Assistant Attorney General's Opinion regarding the UConn Farmington project and the proposed Tech Park.

In reply to an issue raised during public comment, Mr. Hart responded that the supervisor from the transfer station resigned from the town's employ.

Ms. Moran moved, that the letter from the Board of Education regarding the Code of Ethics be referred to the Personnel Committee for consideration and then brought back to the Council for recommendation. Mr. Paulhus seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Paterson made a motion to appoint David Freudmann to the Finance Committee to fill the vacancy of Meredith Lindsey, Mr. Ryan seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Paterson explained the benefits of having an energy efficiency audit done in their homes and encouraged members to take part.

Ms. Moran volunteered at the Tour de Mansfield recently held and was very impressed at the number of participants.

Mr. Paulhus attended the Downtown Partnership Annual Meeting and found it to be very informative.

Mr. Schaefer made a motion to move Agenda item #8 to 1A, Mr. Ryan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer made a motion to move Agenda item #9 to 2B, Mr. Paulhus seconded, motion passed unanimously.

1A. – Agenda Item 8. Mansfield Public Library Services Update

Leslie McDonough, Library Director, thanked staff and residents for the warm reception she has received in the last four months. She feels the library is in great shape and is very functional. She is currently in the process of reviewing policy, and procedures in view of starting a 2013 Strategic Plan. The library is looking to the future in regard to technical aspects by expanding wireless networking; providing technological classes; adding computer labs to include five to 10 laptops and tablets; workshops on electronic-books (e-books) and the continuation with on-going children programs. Areas for further consideration include Sunday hours; creating quiet study areas and a small community room.

2B. – Agenda Item 9. Naming of Public Streets and Buildings in Storrs Center

Mr. Ryan reported that 35-40 names were submitted to the committee for consideration. The committee found it extremely difficult to distinguish who deserved recognition. The committee agreed that the names would be chosen from the town's ancient history as suggested by Roberta Smith Town Historian.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to name the circular area around the Intermodal Transportation Center, as presented on map dated June 25, 2012, Royce Circle.
The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to name the Bolton Road Extension as presented on map dated June 25, 2012, Bolton Road.
The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to name C. E. Smith Way as presented on map dated June 25, 2012. Ms. Moran requested the name be changed to Charles Smith Way. Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to name Village Street. Mr. Schaefer requested an alternate resolution, effective June 25, 2012, the formerly named Village Street, now be named Wilbur Cross Way as presented on map dated June 25, 2012. The motion was seconded. Accepted as an friendly amendment the motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to name the Intermodal Transportation Center as presented on map dated June 25, 2012, Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran requested a plaque be placed to identify the historical origin of the names chosen for the streets and buildings.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Neighborhood Assistance Programs

Mr. Shapiro moved, and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to approve the following projects for submission to the Division of Revenue Services for inclusion in the 2012 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program: water harvesting project at the Mansfield Community Center; community playground at the Mansfield Community Center; Sunny Acres Park improvements; open space acquisition and stewardship; ADA improvements to the Mansfield Community Center and Mansfield Public Library; the South Eagleville Walkway; and the energy efficiency/water conservation program for low and moderate income homeowners.

In accordance with this approval, the Town Manager is hereby authorized to submit applications for the above-referenced Town-sponsored projects.

Mr. Hart clarified an error made in the chart showing the Mansfield Community Center Playground funds to be private fundraising rather than the Sunny Acres Park Improvements.

The motion passed with all present in favor except Mr. Freudmann who opposed.

3. Mansfield Community Playground

Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente briefly updated the Council on the proposed approved siting referral from the PZC. Mr. Grunwald, Director of Human Services spoke on the cost of the project through fund raising and private donations.

Mr. Paulhus moved, Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective June 25, 2012, to endorse the Mansfield Community Center site as the preferred location for the new Mansfield Community Playground.

The motion passed with all in favor, except Mr. Schaefer who abstained and Mr. Freudmann who voted no.

4. Proposed Revisions to Traffic and Parking Ordinance and Regulations

Mr. Shapiro moved, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on July 9, 2012, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance and the revisions to the Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Regulations.

The motion passed with all in favor, except Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Freudmann who were not at the table to take part in the vote.

Mr. Schaeffer left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

5. School Building Project

Mr. Hart, Town Manager reported on the vote (3-6) by the PZC which failed against the proposed resolution on the school building project. The project team would like to return to the PZC's at its next meeting on July 16, 2012 so that they can better ascertain the PZC's concerns and respond to any questions they may have. The project team is also planning an educational program this summer designed to provide information and to publicize the project.

Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien spoke on the outcome of the PZC's decision. The time frame on which the PZC has on 8-24 referrals is 35 days from the date first presented to the PZC. The Council can also override the decision by the PZC by a two-thirds vote. Statutes require that the PZC state the reasons for the denial.

6. Storrs Center Update

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works gave an analysis on the Force Account Work (work performed by the town's public works staff) and estimated costs for labor/equipment and materials on the Storrs Center project. (memorandum attached - up-dated changes to road names formerly Village Street, now Wilbur Cross Way, formerly Post Office Road, now Charles Smith Way).

Mr. Hart reported on the Environmental Remediation Action Plan that involves four sites; the former publications building all remediation is done and monitoring wells have been installed; the former Storrs Automotive site is clear with no releases detected and the monitoring wells to be installed after Phase 1B; the print shop site will need soil and materials removed and some hot spots have been detected; Store 24 the developer is anticipating some expensive demo costs but not remediation cost. The developer is responsible for all the environmental remediation the monitoring cost going forward and demo cost.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation Designation the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month in the Town of Mansfield

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective June 25, 2012, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation designating the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Fiscal Year 2012/13 CSEA Professional/Technical Wage Re-Opener

Mr. Paulhus moved, Ms. Moran seconded, to ratify the tentative agreement between the Town and CSEA, Local 2001, Professional/Technical employees for a two-percent (2%) general wage increase effective July 1, 2012.

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

The motion passed with all in favor, except Ms. Keane and Mr. Freudmann in opposition.

11. Fiscal Year 2012/13 Wage and Benefits Adjustment for Nonunion Personnel

Ms. Moran moved, Mr. Ryan seconded, to approve the proposed recommendations to changes in compensation and benefits for regular non-union employees effective July 1, 2012, as presented by the Town Manager in his correspondence dated June 25, 2012.

The motion passed with all in favor, except Ms. Keane and Mr. Freudmann opposed.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

VI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments.

VII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. PZC re:LaGuardia Lane/Quiet Meadow Subdivision

13. Press Release: Mansfield Water Workshop

14. COST re: Major New Laws Affecting Towns – 2012

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA

No items suggested.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Christine Hawthorne, Asst. Town Clerk